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PRESS RELEASE

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Goat Hunt Closes East of Unakwik Inlet

(Cordova)- Registration permit hunt RG252 for mountain goats in Unit 6D will close at 11:59 p.m. on September 29 by Emergency Order of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Hunt area RG252 includes areas east of Unakwik Inlet and Meares Glacier, west of the Columbia Glacier, and south of the second branch of Columbia Glacier.

Aerial surveys found a minimum count of about 310 goats in registration permit area RG252. The department set the maximum allowable state harvest at 16 goat units, and an additional harvest of 1 goat unit for federal subsistence hunters (17 goat units total). Additional take beyond the harvest objective could harm the long-term stability of the mountain goat population. According to Cordova Area Biologist Charlotte Westing, the harvest is currently at 10 billies and 3 nannies. Hunters are currently in the field, and therefore it is likely that additional goats have been taken and not yet reported. This closure is necessary to prevent unsustainable harvest.

This closure affects only registration permit hunt RG252 in Unit 6D. All other mountain goat hunting regulations in the remainder of Game Management Unit 6 are not affected by this emergency order.

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